

gods gave him the victory he would extirpate root and branch the Christian religion. Kate gave him no opportunity to fulfil his promise:. Defeated at Aclrianople and at Chrysopolis, and then exiled to Thessalonic.i, Licinius had not many months to live. Before he died he saw his pagan councillors pay for their folly with their lives and heard the rejoicings of the Christians of the East at the fall of the last of their pagan persecutors. The Church at last had won her freedom and was to suffer at the hands of the State no more. Kusebius has fortunately preserved for us the text of the edict addressed by Constantino after his victory to the inhabitants of Palestine, recalling from exile, from the mines, and from servitude the Christian victims of the recent persecution, restoring their property to those who had suffered confiscation, offering to soldiers who had been expelled in disgrace from the army either a return to their old rank or the certificate of honourable discharge, and giving back to the churches without diminution the corporate possessions of which they had been robbed. Constantino not merely passed the sponge over the administrative acts of Licinius: he granted large subsidies to the bishops who had suffered at the hands of "the dragon," and himself wrote to "his dearest beloved brother," Kusebius of Ca:sarea, urging him to see that the bishops, elders, and deacons in his neighbourhood were " active and enthusiastic in the work of the Church." \*

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